



**Cal EMA**  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **California Partners with Bank of America to Enhance Emergency Management Capabilities**

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. -- California Emergency Management Agency Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen joined with Mary Ellen Baker, Enterprise Resiliency & Corporate Services Executive for Bank of America, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that makes Cal EMA and Bank of America key partners in the state's disaster response system. This agreement will allow for Bank of America to provide for mobile ATM and banking support in a community affected by a disaster. Bank of America could also provide and deploy volunteer teams to support response and recovery efforts.

"In a time when we need to stretch taxpayer dollars to get maximum benefit, the significance and benefits of public-private partnerships like this become even more important," said Cal EMA Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen. "We recognize these partnerships will increase our resources, help us better coordinate and deliver the services our residents will need during times of emergency, and will bring us all closer together in our local communities," said Bettenhausen.

"We are honored to partner with Cal EMA to enhance disaster preparedness and response in California," said Mary Ellen Baker, Bank of America Enterprise Resiliency and Corporate Services executive. "There is ample evidence that every community would benefit from public-private collaboration in emergency management. Together, we are better able to serve our communities through increased resources and knowledge sharing when we are both active members of the same team."

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger enhanced the role that the private sector plays in California's ability to respond and recover from emergencies by signing an Executive Order in 2006 ([S-04-06](#)) which called on his emergency management agency to better incorporate the private sector into the state's disaster response system. Additionally, Governor Schwarzenegger signed [SB 546 in 2005](#) which authorized sharing facilities and systems, which would among other things, include private businesses and nonprofit organizations in a voluntary program that would integrate private sector emergency preparedness measures into governmental disaster planning programs.

As part of its implementation, Cal EMA has been actively pursuing key partnerships with private industry. To date, Cal EMA has signed MOUs with private sector partners such as Wal-Mart stores, Target Corporation, Home Depot and the California Utilities Emergency Association.

These MOUs will allow for more targeted and efficient delivery of goods and services by formalizing 24-hour contacts with the private sector. Just like the state has 24-hour access to governmental partners, it now has well-established personal relationships with emergency management professionals in the private sector that can be called on. These partners will also be allowed into the State Operations Center during a disaster to staff an innovative "Business Operations Center."

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Having the private sector side-by-side with state and federal emergency management personnel will expedite response activities and maximize resources.

Examples of how some of these MOUs will benefit Californians include:

- Restoring power - the California Utilities Emergency Association coordinates the repair of power, water and other utilities via its affiliate businesses, which is critical during an emergency to restoring a community back to normal.
- Access to supplies - Wal-Mart, Target and Home Depot have access to goods and supplies throughout the country and has a sophisticated logistics system to ensure that necessary supplies get to where they are needed in the shortest time-frame possible.

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